(f) free ration as at (a) above at the place of residence in case of any of the migrants wish to return.

2. In addition to this relief package, an *ex-gratia* relief at the rate of Rs. 1 lakh is given to the next of kin of persons killed and compensation for immovable property damaged at the rate of 50 per cent of the loss assessed subject to a ceiling of Rs. one lakh per case is also given as part of normal relief measures.

Overcrowding in Tihar Jail

*149. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tihar Jail meant for some hundred prisoners are housing nearly 11,000 inmates;

(b) whether consequent to the congestion in Tihar Jail some petty criminals come in contact of hardcore terrorists/criminals and new networks are formed;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that Asif Raja Khan was just an ordinary criminal who after coming into contact with Maulana Masood Azhar in Tihar Jail become a hardcore terrorist; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the steps taken to decongest the Tihar Jail immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) 11.206 prisoners where lodged in Tihar Jail as on 28th February, 2002 as against the sanctioned capacity of 3637 prisoners.

(b) No, Sir. whereas the hard core criminals are lodged in the high security wards of the Tihar Jail, Petty criminals are lodged separately and have no access to the high security ward.

(c) The accused Asif Raza Khan was admitted on 4th November, 1994 in Jail No. 3 as an under-trial in a case under Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA) and was transferred to Kolkata jail on 22nd July, 1999 after his conviction. Maulana Masood Azhar

was initially admitted in Central Jail No. 2 on 18th January, 1995 as a detenue under Public Safety Act and later shifted to Jail No. 1 from where he was released on 17th January, 1997. Both these prisoners were, therefore, lodged in different jails.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to reduce overcrowding in jail include construction of new jails in the campus of Central Jail, Tihar and in other areas of Delhi; holding of Special Courts to try cases of under trials who confess their involvement in petty offences; and release of prisoners on personal bonds/relaxed surety conditions.

Leave sought by LCA Project Director

*150. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Project Director of the Light Combat Aircraft has expressed desire to leave the project; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) and (b) The Programme Director of Light Combat Aircraft has submitted his request for sanction of sabbatical leave to pursue academic/research work.

Decline in Export of Synthetic Textiles and Rayon

*152. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of Indian synthetic textiles and rayon have declined by about 5 per cent during the period April 1 to September 30, of this fiscal year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the industry claims that the "Stoppage of brand rate drawback" has contributed to the decline in synthetic textiles exports;

(d) if so, the role of this duty drawback in enhancing our synthetic textile exports; and